

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSIO USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 3489

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP (PRICE, MELVIN), SHUM, EAID, US, ZA, UR, SO,
CU, ET, SF, RH
SUBJ: ZAMBIA VISIT BY CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

1. SUMMARY: KAUNDA TOLD VISITING CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
THAT HE ACCEPTS THE UK-US INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA, BUT ELECTIONS
SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE INDEPENDENCE. ON SOUTH AFRICA HE
SAID US SHOULD USE ECONOMIC LEVERAGE TO FORCE CHANGE. HE BLAMED
THE CONFLICT IN THE HORN ON SOMALIA AND SAID PRESIDENT CARTER
SHOULD MEET WITH SIAD TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. KAUNDA
SAID THAT RUSSIAN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA WOULD BE REBUFFED WHEN
IN CONFLICT WITH AFRICAN NATIONALISM. HE PRAISED THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION'S STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION
FOR US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA. END SUMMARY.

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2. DURING HIS BREAKFAST MEETING NOVEMBER 18 WITH VISITING
CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION HEADED BY ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN MELVIN PRICE, ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA TOUCHED
ON SEVERAL SUBJECTS IN ADDITION TO THE MAIN DISCUSSION OF THE
SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION. IN ADDRESSING THE DELEGATION AND
ANSWERING THEIR QUESTIONS KAUNDA WAS AT HIS MOST ELOQUENT AND
OBVIOUSLY IMPRESSED HIS GUESTS.

3. RHODESIA: PREFACING HIS REMARKS WITH A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ZAMBIA'S INVOLVEMENT WITH THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, KAUNDA TOLD THE DELEGATION THAT HE ACCEPTED THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT HE FELT THAT ELECTIONS MUST ONLY COME AFTER INDEPENDENCE. THE INITIATIVE, THEREFORE, SHOULD BE REORGANIZED TO BRING PEACE AND ALLOW TIME FOR RACIAL HATRED TO SUBSIDE BY GIVING POLITICAL RECOGNITION AND PREMINENCE TO THOSE DOING THE FIGHTING--THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. IF WEAK LEADERS WERE PLACED IN RULING POSITION, IT WOULD ONLY BE ASKING FOR TROUBLE.

4. SOUTH AFRICA: ASKED WHAT HE THOUGHT THE US SHOULD BE DOING REGARDING SOUTH AFRICA, KAUNDA SAID AMERICA SHOULD USE ITS ECONOMIC POWER TO PRESSURE FOR A CHANGE TO A DEMOCRATIC, NON-RACIAL SOCIETY. HE SAID THAT "THE WEAPON OF OIL" SHOULD BE EMPLOYED SO THAT THE WEAPONS OF WAR WILL NOT BE NEEDED. KAUNDA NOTED THAT AMERICA'S VESTED INTERESTS WOULD BE BEST GUARANTEED BY MAJORITY RULE, AND THE SOONER THAT TOOK PLACE THE BETTER. ASKED WHETHER ECONOMIC SANCTIONS WOULD NOT HURT BLACKS MOST, KAUNDA SAID THAT IF ACTION WAS NOT TAKEN TO FORCE A CHANGE SOUTH AFRICA WOULD EVENTUALLY EXPLODE, RESULTING IN BLOODSHED AND NOT JUST ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION. HE URGED THE CONGRESSMEN TO LOOK AT THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AS AMERICA'S FOUNDING FATHERS LOOKED AT THEIR OWN STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM FROM REPRESSION.

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TM THE HORN: HAVING VISITED MOGADISCIO THE PREVIOUS DAY, SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE CODEL HAD QUESTIONS ON THE ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA CONFLICT. KAUNDA SAID THAT ZAMBIA BLAMED SOMALIA FOR THE CURRENT DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE OF ITS ATTEMPT TO ANNEX THE OGADEN IN VIOLATION OF OAU PRINCIPLES REGARDING ESTABLISHED BORDERS. KAUNDA SAID THAT HE HAD WARNED THE USSR AGAINST GETTING INVOLVED AND THAT HE WAS NOT SURPRISED THAT THEY HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM SOMALIA. HE MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE THOUGHT PRESIDENT CARTER SHOULD GET TOGETHER WITH PRESIDENT SIAD AND CONVINCE SOMALIA TO RESTORE THE OGADEN TO ETHIOPIA.

6. RUSSIAN INTENTIONS IN AFRICA: IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT SOVIET INTERVENTION IN AFRICA, KAUNDA SAID THAT HE WAS NOT OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT RUSSIAN INTENTIONS BECAUSE ANY ATTEMPT AT A NEW FORM OF COLONIZATION WOULD BE RESISTED BY AFRICANS. HE SAID THAT THE WEST MUST LOOK FOR THE CAUSES OF THE PROBLEMS IN AFRICA LIKE CLASS OPPRESSION IN ETHIOPIA. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SOVIET UNION ARE AN EFFECT OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH EXIST AND NOT THE CAUSE. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM EGYPT, SUDAN AND SOMALIA WHEN THEY HAD COME IN CONFLICT WITH TRUE AFRICAN NATIONALIST INTERESTS. KAUNDA ALSO REMINDED THE DELEGATION THAT ZAMBIA HAD CONDEMNED THE RUSSIAN

AND CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA AND FOR HELPING TO GIVE POWER TO ONE FACTION OF THE SEVERAL COMPETING NATIONALIST GROUPS.

7. PRESIDENT CARTER'S EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS: KAUNDA HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS EMPHASIS IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY. HE SAID THAT ZAMBIA FELT ANXIOUS, HOWEVER, ABOUT THE SUPPORT FOR THAT POLICY AMONG THE "AMERICAN ESTABLISHMENT AND ON CAPITOL HILL." KAUNDA SAID THAT THE ATTITUDE WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAD TAKEN TOWARD THE BASIC RIGHTS OF ITS OWN CITIZENS SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD "TOUGH" SITUATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

8. US ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA: ASKED IF HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE LEVEL OF US ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA, KAUNDA REPLIED THAT HE
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APPRECIATED THE "GENEROUS RESPONSE" OF THE US TO ZAMBIAN REQUESTS. HE SAID THAT THE ECONOMY WAS IN "VERY BAD SHAPE" AS A RESULT OF THE DRASTIC FALL IN COPPER PRICES, AND THAT ZAMBIA CONSEQUENTLY WAS IN NEED OF MUCH MORE HELP. KAUNDA TOLD THE DELEGATION THAT THE MAJOR PROBLEM WAS IN THE AREA OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE, BUT THAT ASSISTANCE WAS ALSO NEEDED IN TECHNICAL FIELDS AND ESPECIALLY IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. KAUNDA SAID THAT ZAMBIA ALSO WELCOMED FOREIGN INVESTMENT AS LONG AS IT CONTRIBUTED TO REAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMY.

9. COMMENT: MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION SEEMED GENUINELY PLEASED WITH THEIR BRIEF VISIT TO ZAMBIA AND IMPRESSED WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND THE RECEPTION THEY RECEIVED AT STATE HOUSE. KAUNDA HANDLED THE GROUP EXTREMELY WELL AND PUT ON AN EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE. LOW

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